

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL HOUSTON IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 8

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE, INFO AMMAN, BEIRUT, DAMASCUS,
TRIPOLI, TEL AVIV, MARCH 1, FROM CAIRO RPTD TO YOU:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 2311

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGSC PFOR, EG, IS

SUBJECT: AKHBAR REPORTS USG EXPERTS EXPECT AGREEMENT
BY MARCH 15

1. IN EXCLUSIVE REPORT DATELINED WASHINGTON, AKHBAR AL-YAWM
MARCH 1 REPORTS OPTIMISM OF STATE DEPARTMENT "EXPERTS" HAS
RISEN TO EXTENT THAT AGREEMENT ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM PASSES
AND ABU RUDAIS IS EXPECTED BEFORE MARCH 15. AGREEMENT WILL
BE SIGNED IN LAST WEEK OF MARCH BY MILITARY REPS OF EGYPT, USG,
USSR AND ISRAEL INSTEAD OF THESE COUNTRIES' FOREIGN MINISTERS AS
HAD BEEN 'PREVIOUSLY EXPECTED'. THIS IS BECAUSE AGREEMENT IS
MILITARY, NOT POLITICAL. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING AGREEMENT,
SECRETARY WILL FLY TO DAMASCUS "TO DEFINE AREAS FROM WHICH
ISRAELI FORCES WILL BE WITHDRAWN IN GOLAN".

2. COMMENTING, AKHBAR EDITOR IN CHIEF ALI AMIN SAYS
RESPONSBLE GOE SOURCES ARE ASTONISHED AT HEIGHTS OF THIS
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OPTIMISM. EGYPT IS "NOT OVEREAGER TO REACH AGREEMENT

BECAUSE IT IS STEP WHICH SHOULD BE FOLLOWED BY OTHER STEPS".
(SIC).

3. COMMENT: WE READ THIS ITEM, WHICH CERTAINLY ORIGINATED
IN CAIRO, NOT WASHINGTON, AS GOE EFFORT PRICK BUBBLE
OF EUPHORIA WHICH PREVAILS HERE AND ALSO AS EFFORT CAST BLAME
FOR THIS EUPHORIA ON USG. EILTS UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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